

Child Friendly Cities & Communities Network



Meeting Minutes

Date: 22 June 2023

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Location: Online

CFCC Network Purpose:

We've come together as a network because we can imagine a world where children are supported and empowered to be active citizens, and individually and collectively, we can make a difference. In our network, we will discover new ways to lead our colleagues and our communities to become child friendly and share with each other examples of good practice.

Meeting Chairs: Amy Carson, Merri-bek City Council; Sherryn Prinzi, Banyule City Council & Vivian

Romero, CQ University Australia


Meeting Theme: Promoting children's participation in play and recreational spaces

9:30am Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, CFCC Charter
Amy welcomed attendees to the network and acknowledged Country. An update on the CFCC Charter was provided. To view the updated Charter and information on becoming Charter signatory, visit [Child Friendly Cities and Communities \(CFCC\) | VLGA | Victorian Local Governance Association](#)

9:40am Collaborating with Children in Planning and Designing Play Spaces
Guest Speaker: Sulochi Walisinghe, Urban Design Coordinator, Maroondah City Council
Sulochi shared the importance of engaging children in design of play spaces. Through these spaces, children can create a memory they hold and connect with throughout their lives. Noting the imperative to honour children's effort, ownership and value. Designing opportunities for unseen play and rethinking how children can use their bodies and explore spaces in unique ways is important to map and use in the design of any space.
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- 10.10am Community of Practice Activity
Members were invited to engage in small group discussion on tolerance to risk taking and how adult perceptions might impact how play environments are planned. Using images of risky play settings, members were invited to discuss the benefits of the risky play elements and how adults might perceive and communicate these risks to stakeholders.
Groups shared insights including the need to unpack our own tolerance to risk, define the negotiables and non-negotiables in the planning phase, and identify assumptions adults make that could inhibit risk taking opportunities.
- 10:40am Kate Beveridge, City of Greater Dandenong
Kate shared lessons learned during her many years engaging and consulting with children. She provided tips of using open ended questions and having in-person conversation clarify feedback. Kate provided a multitude of examples of engagement techniques such as using a dotmocracy where children can vote with a 'dot' or sticker, voting where children stand up or sit down to illustrate their views.
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- 11.10am Resource sharing
Amy Treyvaud, City of Ballarat shared details of the Guide to Engaging Children that is currently being updated.
- 11.25am Feedback
Attendees were invited to complete an electronic Feedback Form.
- 11.30am Close
Next meeting: Thursday 7 September, 9.30am – 11.30am.